

JOURNAL OF MEDICINE in an article entitled, *The Roll-Call and Its Results*, devotes several pages to an accurate analysis of the attitude of the various members of the 43rd session on important health measures. By reviewing that article and refreshing your memory, you will be able to decide which members are entitled to re-election. Naturally I looked up that CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE for July, 1919," says the editor of the Examiner, "and this is how I found the legislators listed in the minds of the doctors." Then he repeats the contents of the Journal article noted. Doctors should join the editor of the Examiner in looking up that article and refreshing their memories.

For the doctors know, *you know*, that the doctors intend to, and will, defeat what the Examiner rightly calls "Quack solons." It is time that the public realized the facts in the case. That realization is increasing and there can be but one result. Down with the quack solons. As the Examiner says, "the seekers after legislative honors must step lively to keep from being caught in the crush." The doctors are no longer on the defensive. Their interests are identical with the people's interests. The doctors' interests are identical with the interests of public health. The few "conscientious objectors" did not win the Great War. Neither did they prevent the war from being won. The few antis, and half-baked uneducated healers, do not make, benefit or desire public health, neither will they prevent public health from being improved and maintained by the enlightened public of California and the medical profession of California.

HUBLEY AND BROOKS GO ON FOREVER

E. C. Hubley, an unlicensed chiropractor, is reported by Harry Ellington Brooks in the "Times," one of the Los Angeles newspapers, that he will practice his "profession" as long as he lives without the consent or approval of an imaginary Medical Trust. This mythical Medical Trust that seems to worry the "Times" babbling Brooks, we presume is the Board of Medical Examiners established and empowered by the State of California.

The "Times" is prating about law and order in season and out of season, and yet we find this sheet encouraging the defiance of the law by some chiropractors and cults. Judge Richardson of Los Angeles recently suspended a 180-day jail sentence incurred by Hubley for violating the Medical Practice Act, on the condition that Hubley refrain from practicing until he secured a license from the State of California to practice in this state.

In its ardent zeal for law and order does the "Times" exclude those laws established to regulate the examination of applicants for license and the practice of those licensed to treat diseases, injuries, deformities or other physical or mental conditions of human beings?

The purpose of these laws is not to create a medical monopoly but to promote and protect the public health. The legal profession is surrounded with certain safeguards to protect the people from

incompetents and imposters. Will the "Times" say that property and the pocket-book are more precious than the health of the people? Or does the "Times" advocate allowing anyone to practice law without any examination to determine mental or moral qualifications?

No one can claim a greater right to practice medicine and surgery, to diagnose and treat diseases without complying with the law, than to practice law without observing the established conditions. The peril to the public from an unqualified man who would attempt unlawfully to practice law would be infinitesimal in comparison to an unqualified man who attempts to practice on the lives of the people.

The privilege to practice will be granted to Hubley and all other applicants that are willing and able to comply with the laws of California. As is pointed out in another section of the "Journal" any chiropractor that is half-educated can get a license.

THE ROLE OF THE PHYSICIAN IN INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE.

Volumes could be, and are, written on the role of the medical profession in modern industry. The average doctor can be reminded with advantage from time to time of some of these fundamental relationships. Employers need the physician because they are coming to recognize that employees must be kept well, that preventable hazards must be abolished, that the employee must be shielded from necessary hazards, that the disabled employee must be returned to work skilfully and quickly, and that the large group of physically abnormal employees must be given work adapted to their capabilities. All of this is the function of industrial medicine. These objects of the employer can be achieved only through the medium of the physician. The industrial physician has not yet come into his own. All too often he is still a mere adjunct to a "welfare department" under lay supervision. But the new highly trained type of industrial physician will see his strategic relationship to employer and employed, and will receive recognition from both for the really indispensable part he plays in modern industry. The doctor has been accused, and justly, of being an individualist. He must, perforce, now get for himself a community point of view, a social regard for social groups, a recognition that his profession places him at the logical point of common interest between employer and employed. The doctor as an individualist must give way to the doctor with a sense of social responsibility.

THE LAY ANESTHETIST

The question of the lay anesthetist has assumed considerable importance in recent times. The fact that trained nurses are employed to give anesthetics in surgery demonstrates that a new issue has arisen. It bids fair to develop a schism in the practice of medicine, and the creation of a new cult. Goodness knows! we have too many of these already.

The nurse anesthetist is often a very good anesthetist. She is readily accessible and is at present, cheap labor and a source of profit to the hospital. With all her acquired skill she cannot know all that is proper for an anesthetist to know, because she lacks the fundamental medical education.

Anesthesia is a very important part of an operation; often the most important. Why should it be turned over to an under-trained person? No educational requirement is too high that protects human life. It is absolutely essential to experimental research that certain graduates in medicine should specialize in anesthetics. This branch of medicine must be fostered and developed. It can only be done by fully equipped minds.

Women physicians make ideal anesthetists because they are faithful, conscientious, careful by nature. They do not aspire to become operative surgeons, and they pay strict attention to the patient. They should be encouraged to take up this specialty. As evidence of the sentiment of the physicians of California, the following is a resolution passed by the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of California:

WHEREAS, The administration of an anesthetic is always the function of a legally qualified medical practitioner; and

WHEREAS, The administration is best performed by physicians specially trained or who have made a specialty of this subject; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, wherever available, hospitals and public institutions, where anesthetics are administered, should employ only physicians as anesthetists; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Society condemns, under all circumstances, the training and qualification of lay persons as anesthetists; be it further

RESOLVED, That "no hospital shall be deemed to have acceptable standards" which charges a fee for an anesthetic unless such anesthetic has been administered by a legally qualified physician.

Editorial Comment

And authorities tell us that often, even usually, anti-vivisectionists are sadists, reacting to repression, but still bound to obtain what perverted satisfaction they can.

Now comes one, George S. Weger, with an inchoate grouch against the medical profession, of which, we surmise, he is a misrepresentative member. The nature of his remarks suggests that "Weger bored" should be spelled "Ouija board."

The illegitimate child may be born beyond the pale of society's sanction. It is not, however, born beyond the pale of nature's sanction. From the standpoint of biology as well as of simple justice, it is entitled to the same rights of life, growth and protection as its more legal half-brothers. Legal sophistries and social intolerance must give way to justice and decent health protection.

The public and the medical profession are sick and weary of the exorbitant price of milk. "Feed the Children First" is a good slogan, and general indignation is rising against the milk barons, who like Ruskin's bag barons, and the crag barons of old, make the people stand and deliver, in this case at the expense of the children. "Feed the Children First" and feed them with clean, cheap milk. It is time for governmental price-fixing and governmental milk distribution.

Among the careful and large-scale medical studies now appearing in print as a result of investigations in military hospitals during the Great War, is a report on arthritis, summarized by Pemberton in the Archives of Internal Medicine, April, 1920. Of 400 cases of arthritis studied, exposure was the exciting cause in 58 per cent. Apparent foci of infection were present in 72 per cent., and of these foci, 52 per cent. were in the tonsils, 33.5 per cent. in the teeth and 12.5 per cent. in the genito-urinary tract. Thus a considerable percentage showed no foci of infection. Studies on metabolism showed striking changes in two particulars. One-half of 40 cases showed an abnormal increase of blood creatinin, and in certain of these, decline in blood creatinin paralleled clinical improvement. A large proportion of the cases showed a lowered tolerance roughly proportional to the severity of the arthritis. Clinical improvement was apparently unrelated to the type of therapy, but was most abrupt where focal infections were removed. In some severe chronic cases a persistent lowering of sugar tolerance was found. Attention is called to the importance of dietary restrictions in the treatment of such cases.

Special Article

CONCERNING OSTEOPATHY

By EMMET RIXFORD, M. D., San Francisco.

It is a sad commentary on the degree of education and understanding of the general public that its attitude toward the things which the student of public health knows most vitally concern the human race, its development, its health, its efficiency, its very perpetuation, is that of neglect, of "laissez faire." The world is too busy to bother about that which is not obvious. "Let the doctors worry about it; they are the ones interested!" Really this is worse than the attitude of the ostrich for, by burying his head in the sand, he shows at least that he is alive to the approach of danger. But it is said people are discussing health matters now as never before. Shall we look upon the ever increasing crop of "antis" as evidence of an awakening public consciousness in matters of public health and clean living? This we would gladly do if the protestations and the propaganda were honest. Consistency would not so much matter if the heart were in the right place and the purpose sincere, for in the last analysis facts, like the large potatoes in the basket, will surely come to the top, if the basket be shaken long enough and hard enough.

In a new country like ours where opportunity